

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY***In the Claims*

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1-11 [Canceled]

1       12. [Previously presented] Method for operating an account  
2       payable computing system, comprising:

3               preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable  
4       data base original electronic invoices received from a  
5       vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

6               identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice  
7       designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
8       number;

9               calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices  
10       identified as having said same vendor invoice  
11       designation, said same purchase order number, and said  
12       same item number;

13              identifying as a duplicate invoice an original  
14       electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is  
15       greater than zero;

END919980071US1

2 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

16 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection  
17 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic  
18 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting  
19 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable  
20 data base; and

21 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified  
22 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 13. [Previously presented] The method of claim 12, said  
2 preprocessing including

3 first sorting said original electronic invoice against  
4 an accounts payable production table for same vendor  
5 and same vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same  
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same  
9 items billed on purchase order;

10 calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

11 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice

END919980071US1

3 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

12 said original electronic invoice if it contains said  
13 item with a net sum amount greater than zero.

1 14. [Currently amended] A computing system, comprising:

2

3 an accounts payable data base;

4

5 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among

6 electronic invoices received from a vendor before

7 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts

8 payable data base by:

9 identifying electronic invoices having a same vendor

10 invoice designation, same purchase order number, and

11 same item number;

12 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices

13 identified as having said same vendor invoice

14 designation, said same purchase order number, and said

15 same item number;

16 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

17 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

18 greater than zero;

19 an invoice processor for selectively automatically

END919980071US1

4 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

20 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back  
21 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice  
22 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said  
23 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data  
24 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not  
25 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts  
26 payable data base.

1 15. [Currently amended] A program storage device tangibly  
2 embodying a program of instructions for controlling the operation  
3 of a computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic  
4 input invoice from a vendor according to a method comprising:

5 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable  
6 data base original electronic invoices received from a  
7 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

8 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice  
9 designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
10 number;

11 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices  
12 identified as having said same vendor invoice  
13 designation, said same purchase order number, and said  
14 same item number;

END919980071US1

5 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

15 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original  
16 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is  
17 greater than zero;

18 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection  
19 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic  
20 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting  
21 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable  
22 data base; and

23 storing said original electronic invoices not identified as  
24 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 16. [Currently amended] Method for operating an accounts  
2 payable computing system, comprising:

3 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

4 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors  
5 not initialized as trading partners, and translating  
6 original electronic invoices received from vendors  
7 initialized as trading partners;

8 assuring that during said translating the count of  
9 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number  
10 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding

END919980071US1

6 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

11           accepted invoices for preprocessing;  
12  
13           preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as  
14           received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing  
15           selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item  
16           accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original  
17           electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before  
18           introduction into an accounts payable data base, said  
19           identifying duplicate invoices including:  
  
20           sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;  
  
21           auditing only debit invoices one at a time for  
22           duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts  
23           payable data base only those debit invoices which are  
24           not duplicate invoices;  
  
25           identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice  
26           designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
27           number;  
  
28           calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices  
29           identified as having said same vendor invoice  
30           designation, said same purchase order number, and said  
31           same item number;

END919980071US1

7 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

32 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original  
33 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is  
34 greater than zero; said identifying including  
35 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being  
36 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate  
37 invoice; said check verbs including determining that  
38 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice  
39 checking is to be performed, determining that there is  
40 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders  
41 for said invoice, and determining for each item on  
42 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with  
43 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said  
44 item;

45 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection  
46 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic  
47 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting  
48 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable  
49 data base;

50 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring  
51 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said  
52 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated  
53 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

54 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for

END919980071US1

8 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

55 subsequent manual processing;

56 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

57 exceptions invoices which are determined during

58 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings

59 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had

60 sales tax deducted;

61 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified

62 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 17. [Currently amended] The method of claim 16, said

2 preprocessing including

3 first sorting said original electronic invoice against an

4 accounts payable production table for same vendor and same

5 vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same

7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items

9 billed on purchase order;

10 calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

END919980071US1

9 of 18

S/N 09/244,304



11           rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice said  
12           original electronic invoice if it contains said item with a  
13           net sum amount greater than zero.

1       18.   [Currently amended]   A computing system, comprising:

2

3           an accounts payable data base;

4           a translator for receiving an original electronic invoice  
5           from a trading partner and selectively rejecting said  
6           original invoice back to said trading partner or accepting  
7           said original invoice for further processing;

8

9           a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among  
10          electronic invoices accepted for further processing before  
11          introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts  
12          payable data base by:

13                 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

14                 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for  
15                 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts  
16                 payable data base only those debit invoices which are  
17                 not duplicate invoices;

18                 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

END919980071US1

10 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

19 designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
20 number;

21 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices  
22 identified as having said same vendor invoice  
23 designation, said same purchase order number, and said  
24 same item number;

25 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original  
26 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is  
27 greater than zero; said identifying including  
28 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being  
29 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate  
30 invoice; said check verbs including determining that  
31 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice  
32 checking is to be performed, determining that there is  
33 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders  
34 for said invoice, and determining for each item on  
35 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with  
36 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said  
37 item;

38 an invoice processor for selectively automatically  
39 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back  
40 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice  
41 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said

END919980071US1

11 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

42 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data  
43 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not  
44 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts  
45 payable data base.

1 19. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable by a  
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable  
3 by a machine to perform a method for operating a computing system  
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a  
5 vendor for selectively rejecting back to said vendor duplicate  
6 invoices without logging said duplicate invoices to an accounts  
7 payable database, said method comprising:

8 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

9 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors  
10 not initialized as trading partners, and translating  
11 original electronic invoices received from vendors  
12 initialized as trading partners;

13 assuring that during said translating the count of  
14 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number  
15 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding  
16 accepted invoices for preprocessing;

17  
18 preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as

END919980071US1

12 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

19 received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing  
20 selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item  
21 accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original  
22 electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before  
23 introduction into an accounts payable data base, said  
24 identifying duplicate invoices including:

25 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

26 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for  
27 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts  
28 payable data base only those debit invoices which are  
29 not duplicate invoices;

30 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice  
31 designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
32 number;

33 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices  
34 identified as having said same vendor invoice  
35 designation, said same purchase order number, and said  
36 same item number;

37 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original  
38 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is  
39 greater than zero; said identifying including

END919980071US1

13 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

40 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being  
41 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate  
42 invoice; said check verbs including determining that  
43 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice  
44 checking is to be performed, determining that there is  
45 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders  
46 for said invoice, and determining for each item on  
47 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with  
48 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said  
49 item;

50 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection  
51 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic  
52 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting  
53 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable  
54 data base;

55 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring  
56 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said  
57 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated  
58 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

59 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for  
60 subsequent manual processing;

61 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

END919980071US1

14 of 18

S/N 09/244,304

62 exceptions invoices which are determined during  
63 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings  
64 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had  
65 sales tax deducted;

66 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified  
67 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

END919980071US1

15 of 18

S/N 09/244,304